

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 181

By Crutchfield

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Thomas George Bartlett for his extraordinary career and his outstanding contributions to Tennessee athletics.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those citizens who, through their natural talents and unflagging commitment to excellence, bring honor to the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Thomas George "Tommy" Bartlett is one such noteworthy and estimable citizen who has attained the highest level of athletic success; and

WHEREAS, born in Homerville, Georgia on June 6, 1928, Mr. Bartlett displayed his considerable athletic talents as a youth at Knoxville High School before graduating in 1946; his prowess in swimming earned him the Knoxville Men's and Junior City Swimming Championships in 1945 and 1946, respectively; and

WHEREAS, Tommy Bartlett's athletic talents enabled him to have tremendous success in other sports as well; he was a letterman in Football, Track, Tennis, and Basketball at Knoxville High, and he was named "All City" in Football (1945), and "All District" and "All Region" in Basketball (1946); and

WHEREAS, during his collegiate career, Mr. Bartlett not only lettered in Basketball and Tennis, he was also the Captain of both teams, and named to the All Southeastern Basketball Conference in 1952; and

WHEREAS, in the history of the University of Tennessee (UT), only Mr. Bartlett has both played on and coached Southeastern Conference (SEC) championship teams; he was captain of the school's first SEC Championship tennis team (1951) and was Head Coach to the school's second SEC Championship team (1966); and

WHEREAS, he also maintained an extraordinary collegiate tennis career, winning All Southeastern Conference tennis tournaments singles and doubles in 1950, 1951, and 1952; Mr. Bartlett had the unparalleled experience of never once losing a college singles match; and

WHEREAS, beginning his professional career as a teacher, basketball coach, and football coach at Dandridge and Lenoir City High Schools, Coach Bartlett quickly advanced to coaching collegiate athletics, most notably at the University of Florida and at the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bartlett's accomplishments as a tennis professional are of such magnitude that they alone would merit membership in the Hall of Fame; in his more than three decades as an instructor, Mr. Bartlett has become known across the South for his skill in leading players to lofty accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, three players who played tennis in the Olympics, Orlando Lourenco (1984), Phillip Tuckniss (1988), and Mark Gurr (1988), all thrived under the tutelage of Coach Bartlett; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his coaching achievements, Mr. Bartlett has compiled an astounding record of accomplishment as a tennis competitor; in his lifelong career, he has accumulated fifty Southern Tennis Championship titles and thirty-one National Championship titles in the United States Tennis Association (USTA); and

WHEREAS, he has been named Player of the Year both nationally and regionally numerous times by the United States Professional Tennis Association and was selected Pro of the Year in 1980, 1985, and 1988 by professional instructor's associations; and

WHEREAS, in 1990, Tommy Bartlett was only one of two people to be selected for induction into the Southern Tennis Hall of Fame by the USTA; and

WHEREAS, his induction into the Chattanooga Tennis Hall of Fame on March 31, 1992, was followed by his induction into the Tennessee Tennis Hall of Fame on November 21 of that same year; and

WHEREAS, another most noteworthy accomplishment was his induction into the International Tennis Association's Men's Collegiate Tennis Hall of Fame May 18, 1993; and

WHEREAS, his extraordinary accomplishments aside, Mr. Bartlett has been blessed with the love and companionship of his wife, Essie Roberts Bartlett, and their three sons, Thomas III, William, and Michael; and

WHEREAS, this fine family was duly named Tennessee Family of the Year in both 1991 and 1999; and

WHEREAS, in addition to sharing his time and talents as a volunteer coach for wheel chair tennis players, Mr. Bartlett presently serves on the Southern Tennis Patrons Foundation Board, the charitable arm of the USTA Southern Section; the foundation offers grant assistance to junior players, tournaments, and other worthy organizations that work to fulfill the USTA mission; and

WHEREAS, with respect to his talents and his many accomplishments, Mr. Bartlett remains humble, and he is most thankful to the Lord for all of life's great blessings; and

WHEREAS, possessing estimable accomplishments in all of his undertakings, Mr. Tommy Bartlett provides an excellent example of the tremendous success that can be achieved by those Tennesseans who possess the determination, drive, and dedication to take full advantage of their innate talents; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and recognize Mr. Thomas George Bartlett for his substantial legacy as a competitor and instructor in the tennis and basketball communities of Tennessee, offer our thanks for the honor which he has brought to this state, and extend to him our best wishes for every continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.